

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019463

LIMDIS NESCO

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 19463 SENT ACTION TEL AVIV

PARIS USUN, JANUARY 28TH:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019463

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO AND ISRAEL

REF: STATE 009408 (NOTAL)

1. IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM CALLED IN ISRAELI
MINISTER SHALEV JANUARY 24 TO REVIEW ISRAELI INITIATIVE IN
ICAO AND USED OCCASION TO PROBE ISRAELI STAND ON UNESCO.
RE LATTER, BUFFUM OBSERVED ANALYSIS IS UNDERWAY WITHIN USG
ON HOW TO RESPOND TO CONGRESSIONAL LIMITATION OF FUNDS
FOR UNESCO, STRESSED ANALYSIS NOT YET CONCLUDED, AND SAID
IT WOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL IN THIS CONNECTION TO RECEIVE GOI
THINKING ON FUTURE ISRAELI RELATIONS WITH UNESCO.
SPECIFICALLY, DOES ISRAEL ENVISAGE CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP
IN ORGANIZATION? HAS GOI EVALUATED UNESCO UTILITY TO
ISRAEL? DOES GOI HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION ANY ACCOMMODATION
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ON ISSUE OF JERUSALEM PROJECTS? HOW MIGHT ISRAEL RESPOND

TO HINT OF POSSIBLE VISIT TO ISRAEL BY M'BOW? BUFFUM NOTED M'BOW HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VISITING WASHINGTON END FEBRUARY, BUT SAID U. S. PREFERRED TO CONSIDER TIMING IN LIGHT OF TIMING OF NEXT STEPS WITH CONGRESS.

2. SHALEV RESPONDED THAT MOOD OF GOI IS TO SUSPEND ALL ACTIVITIES WITH UNESCO SHORT OF FORMAL WITHDRAWAL. HE

SPECULATED GOI PRESUMABLY WOULD NOT REFUSE TO RECEIVE VISIT BY M'BOW, BUT CALLED AMB. BUFFUM BACK BY TELEPHONE SUBSEQUENTLY TO CLARIFY THAT CONCERNING A POSSIBLE M'BOW VISIT TO ISRAEL, SHALEV DID NOT THINK THIS WOULD BE ADVISABLE BEFORE THE OFFENDING RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY UNESCO ARE RESCINDED. SHALEV PREDICTED GOI WOULD CUT OFF ISRAELI CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO, BUT SAID QUESTION OF DOING SO WOULD BE TAKEN UP IN CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET FOR NEXT ISRAELI FISCAL YEAR WHICH BEGINS APRIL 2. HE FELT SURE UNESCO CONTRIBUTION WOULD NOT APPEAR IN NEXT GOI FISCAL YEAR BUDGET.

3. SHALEV REMARKED HE HAD BEEN "GETTING SOME FLAK" AS RESULT OF REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO M'BOW AIDE NAJMAN DURING VISIT TO WASHINGTON JANUARY 9 (REFTEL) TO EFFECT ISRAEL TO BLAME FOR UNESCO ACTIONS BECAUSE ISRAEL FAILED TO PUT UP GOOD FIGHT. BUFFUM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME MEMBERS OF U. S. DELEGATION HAD RETURNED WITH IMPRESSION US HAD WAGED MORE ENERGETIC CAMPAIGN THAN ISRAEL, BUT ADDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT STEPS MIGHT HAVE BEEN OPEN TO GOI TO EASE JERUSALEM MONUMENTS ISSUE, AND POINTED OUT THAT THIS HISTORY NOT SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN U. S. ANALYSIS NOW UNDERWAY. AS FAR AS ISSUE OF ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP, BUFFUM POINTED OUT THAT ENTRY OF STATE INTO REGIONAL GROUP IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS PRESS PORTRAYS IT, OBSERVING THAT IT TOOK TEN-YEAR EFFORT BEFORE U. S. MANAGED TO JOIN THIS SAME EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP. SHALEV INTERJECTED THAT ISRAEL HARBORS NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT U. S. EFFORTS AT CONFERENCE ON ISRAEL'S BEHALF.

4. BUFFUM REITERATED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL AT THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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STAGE TO HAVE GOI VIEWS ON UNESCO AS AN INSTITUTION (ACKNOWLEDGING IN BRIEF EXCHANGE WHICH ENSUED THAT PROBLEM WAS NOT SO MUCH WITH THE INSTITUTION AS WITH ITS

MEMBERSHIP). HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT U. S. IMPRESSED BY BEHIND SCENES ACTIVITY OF M'BOW AT CONFERENCE AND CONCILIATORY ROLE NOW BEING PLAYED BY M'BOW, WHO HE CHARACTERIZED TO SHALEV AS MAN OF GOOD WILL. PROBLEM IS

WITH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND CLEARER
UNDERSTANDING OF GOI VIEWS WOULD ASSIST USG ANALYSIS
OF HOW BEST TO APPROACH PROBLEM. SHALEV UNDERTOOK TO
SEE WHAT INFORMATION COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE AND TO
LOOK INTO WHAT MIGHT BE DONE BY ISRAELI. KISSINGER

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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